

CONSTITUTION
—AND—
BY-LAWS

—OF THE—

Montreal Pioneer Freethought
CLUB.



Founded at Montreal,

OCTOBER 1880.

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CONSTITUTION

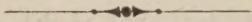
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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The Club shall be called *The Montreal Pioneer Freethought Club.*

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The object of the Club shall be :

To facilitate the association of those who have at heart and hold dear that absolute freedom of thought and expression, which is the natural right of every rational being, to encourage the study of man in all his relations, and to seek to realize the truth in life, and so to aid in those movements that tend most to the improvement of the individual and of society, and to the unity and freedom of mankind.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any person whose moral, social, and intellectual standing is proof that he or she will further the objects of the club and preserve the necessary unity of opinion with regard to them as expressed in ART. II, shall be eligible for membership.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS.

The Officers of the club shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, Recording and Financial Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Librarian and seven Directors, who together shall form a general committee of management. The officers shall be elected by ballot annually and shall hold office for one year or until such time as their successors shall have been elected.

ARTICLE V.

MEETINGS.

The club shall meet weekly at their rooms for the promotion of its objects. The first meeting in each month shall be devoted to the transaction of all regular business. Extraordinary or urgent business may be

transacted at any weekly meeting, when considered absolutely necessary, by a three quarter majority of those present.

ARTICLE VI.

FEES AND DUES.

Each member on joining shall pay an admission fee and also monthly dues of such amounts as may be provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII.

FUNDS.

The funds of the club shall be duly deposited in one of our banks in the name of the President and Treasurer and expended only for the objects of the club as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

The foregoing constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of any meeting, but notice of motion for such amendment must be given at least four weeks previous to the discussion of same, of which notice the Secretary shall duly inform every member.

BY-LAWS.

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ARTICLE I.

MEMBERSHIP.

(a) A proposition for membership shall only be received at the hand of a member, and shall be referred to a committee on Character, to be appointed by the chair.

(b) The committee on Character shall report on the proposition at the ensuing regular meeting and if the report be favourable, a vote shall be taken and if two-thirds of the members are in favour, the candidate shall be declared elected by the chairman.

(c) No proposition for membership on behalf of a rejected candidate shall be entertained within one year from date of rejection.

(d) The proposer shall have the right to withdraw his proposition before the vote is taken.

(e) An elected member shall be introduced and become qualified to vote immediately after having signed the Constitution and By-Laws and after the payment of his initiation fee.

(f) The election of a member is to be considered void if he or she fail to sign the Constitution and By-laws, and to pay the joining fee within three months after such election, unless an excuse deemed reasonable by the club can be offered for such neglect.

ARTICLE II.

MEETINGS.

(a) Meetings shall be held every Sunday afternoon commencing at three o'clock at the Club-rooms, the first meeting in each month to be the regular business meeting ; for the rest of the month a programme shall be arranged by the Directors and communicated to the members.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

(a) The election of officers shall take place annually at the first meeting in December after previous nomination at the last meeting in November, such election to be by ballot, except in case only one member be nominated when he or she shall be declared elected by acclamation.

(b) In case of a vacancy in any office occurring on account of resignation, death, or neglect of duty, (absence

without reasonable excuse, from six consecutive meetings, constituting such neglect,) it shall be immediately filled by election.

(c) The ballots are to be counted by two scrutineers appointed by the Chair ; a majority of all votes cast is necessary for an election.

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

(a) The duty of the President is to preside at each regular meeting unless prevented by urgent outside duties, and to govern the same by impartial parliamentary ruling. At the end of his official year he shall present a retrospective report of the same.

(b) One of the Vice-Presidents shall assume the duties of the President in his absence.

(c) The Recording-Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and attend to all the correspondence of the club.

(d) The Financial-Secretary shall keep correct accounts with members, collect their dues and fees and hand all money received over to the Treasurer against the Treasurer's receipt.

(e) The Treasurer shall receive all moneys and deposit same as provided for in the Constitution and

expend money for such ordinary purposes only as may be voted by the Club by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regular meeting. Should any extraordinary expenditure be deemed advisable, the same can only be voted after due notification of such intention sent by the Secretary to all members.

(f) A temporary chairman may be elected at any meeting excepting at the regular monthly business meeting.

ARTICLE V.

DUES.

(a) Each joining member shall pay an admission fee of One Dollar.

(b) Twenty-five cents shall be paid monthly by each member in advance, excepting wives of members, who shall be entitled to the privileges of membership without charge

ARTICLE VI.

DONATIONS.

Donations in support of the Club or the cause may be received from members and non-members.

ARTICLE VII.

QUORUM.

Seven members, two of whom shall be officers, form a legal quorum at any regular meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

The Club may elect any prominent or distinguished promoter of its objects as an honorary member by a unanimous vote of those present at any regular business meeting.

ARTICLE IX.

EXPULSION.

A member may be expelled on proposal of any member by a two thirds vote of those present after two weeks personal notification.

ARTICLE X.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- (a) Reading of minutes.
- (b) Reading of notices and correspondence.
- (c) Reports from Committee.
- (d) Receiving of propositions for membership.

(e) Voting on propositions submitted with report of Committee.

(f) General business.

ARTICLE XI.

SUSPENSION OR AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS.

(a) Any By-Law may be suspended at any meeting by a two thirds vote.

(b) These By-Laws may be suspended at any meeting after two weeks notice of amendments proposed.

Rules for the Library.

1. The Library shall be in charge of the Librarian under the control of the Board of Directors, and shall be open for the delivery and return of books one hour previous to and after the regular weekly meeting of the Club
2. No member shall be allowed to have more than one volume at a time, and the Librarian shall enter in a book kept for the purpose the number and title of each volume delivered by him, the name of the member and the date of the delivery, and shall also enter the date when such volume is returned. Three weeks shall be the limit of time allowed for reading each volume, and any member failing to return a book after this time shall be fined for each week of its detention the sum of ten cents, and shall not be allowed the use of the Library until such fine be paid. Any member who may not have finished the perusal of any volume within the specified time may retain the same for one week longer by notifying the Librarian, provided that no other member has applied for the book.
3. If any member lose or injure a book, he or she shall replace the same, or if unable to do so, pay the value thereof, and if the book belong to a set, shall replace the set or pay the value thereof.

4. The Librarian shall call in all books two weeks previous to the annual meeting. They shall be carefully examined and checked by a committee of three appointed by the President for that purpose. The Librarian shall make an Annual Report stating the circulation, the general condition of the Books, number missing if any, amount of fines received, etc., during the year.

5. The privileges of the Library shall be granted to no member in arrears; and the Financial Secretary shall make monthly a list of all members not in arrears, for the guidance of the Librarian who shall deliver books only to those whose names appear on it. Such list may be supplemented any time during the month.

6. The privileges of the Library may, by the Approval of the Board of Directors, and for an annual subscription of three Dollars payable in advance, be granted to those who may not wish to identify themselves with the objects of the Club.

7. Subscribers to the funds of the Library, to the amount of not less than twenty-five Dollars, shall be considered as honorary members of the Library and entitled to all its privileges.

